

INTRODUCTION

The Part C system, Birth to 3 Connections in South Dakota, is designed with the intent to maximize family involvement and provide explicit parental consent in each step of the process from the determination of eligibility through service delivery.

Ensuring that *parents* maintain a leadership role in services to their child necessitates the opportunity for *parents* to be informed about the safeguards which have been established to protect them and their child. Participation in the early intervention system for infants and toddlers is voluntary for you and your family.

The general rights you have as a *parent* include:

- The right to choose to participate or not in the Birth to 3 Connections program in South Dakota;
- The right to participate as a member of the team working with your child to the extent you wish to participate;
- The right to receive a full explanation of any *evaluations*, *assessments*, services and changes considered for your child, in the language you speak or in your mode of communication;
- The right to refuse services without jeopardizing the services you do want;
- The right to a timely, *multidisciplinary evaluation* and *assessment*;

- The right, if eligible under Part C, to appropriate early intervention services for your child and family as addressed in an *Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP)*;
- The right to *evaluation, assessment, IFSP* development, service coordination and procedural safeguards at no cost. You may be charged for other early intervention services on a sliding fee schedule. However, your inability to pay will not prevent your child or family from receiving services;
- The right to request a change in service coordinators;
- The right to choose not to use your health insurance to pay for early intervention services;
- The right to receive timely written notice before a change is proposed or refused in the identification, *evaluation*, or placement of your child, or in the provision of services to your child or family;
- The right to receive services in your child's *natural environment* to the extent appropriate for your child;
- The right to have all *personally identifiable* information treated as confidential; and
- The right to an impartial hearing to resolve *parent*/provider disagreements.

In addition to the general rights noted above, you are entitled to be notified of specific procedural safeguards

Family Rights

BIRTH TO 3 CONNECTIONS

under the Birth to 3 Connections program. These rights include: Parental Consent, Prior Notice, Examination of ***Records***, Confidentiality of Information; Individual Child Complaints; and Surrogate Parents. Each of these safeguards are described below.